

# The Book of Philippians Speaks to Christian Men about Giving and Service

Week Three

Patrick R. Turner

Date

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## Introduction:

**2Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Author: Paul    Timing: 65-70AD    Audience: The believers at the Church of Philippi

The book of Philippians was written for several reasons. First Paul wanted to express in writing his thanks for the Philippians gifts and unselfish giving. Second, he wanted the Philippians to know why he decided to return Epaphroditus to them, so they would not think his service to Paul had been unsatisfactory. Third, he wanted to inform them about his circumstances at Rome. Forth, he wrote to exhort them to unity. Finally, he wrote to warn them against false teachings.

The underlying theme of the book is to describe the proper motivation for service and giving; namely a pure heart, a kingdom mentality, and an altruistic view of helping others. Chapter One has Paul congratulating and exhorting the Philippians for there hearts of giving and service.

## Chapter Two

**2:1** If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels [compassionate feelings, tender mercies] and mercies,

**2:2** Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

1. How is the tone changed here compared to Chapter One? From exhorting to what?

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**2:3** *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

**2:4** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

**2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2. What one trait is Paul trying to describe? How do the world/believers view that trait?

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2:6 Who, being in the form of God [trinity, one with God], thought it not robbery[not unusual or presumptuous] to be equal with God:  
2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:  
2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

3. Describe the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice. Describe the death on the cross.
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2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:  
2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;  
2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4. Contrast this passage with the previous one. Discuss this in the context of giving and servant-hood. Discuss the example for us in these passages.
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2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.  
2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

5. Why is it so hard to be Christ-like in private? In both actions and thought? Reflect on the statement, "The total depravity of man."
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2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;  
2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.  
2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

6. What is the word of life? Paul seems to be doing a guilt trip; Why? And, to what end? Discuss the meaning of verse 17; what is the source of his joy and rejoicing?
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2:18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.  
2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.  
2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.  
2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.  
2:22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.  
2:23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

7. Paul would send Timothy from where? Why wouldn't Paul go himself? Do you think Timothy is his son?
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2:24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.  
2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

8. What would have to happen for Paul to go himself? Who is Epaphroditus?
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2:26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.  
2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.  
2:28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

9. Compare Epaphroditus to someone today, someone you know? What would he be called?
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2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:  
2:30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

10. Explain the phrases, "hold such in reputation" and "supply your lack of service toward me?"
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**Summary:**

**This second chapter of the book of Philippians has Paul going from exhorting and thanking to correcting and encouraging. This is a wonderful picture of how the most successful churches should always posture themselves. Never be idle, never be satisfied, pressing toward the mark (a little foreshadowing there...). For our example of giving and service who is and was perfect, is Christ. Our process of sanctification (purification) is ongoing and never ending till we join Jesus in Heaven.**

**Thank you for attending,**

**Pat Turner**